

The Fireman's Journal

AND MILITARY GAZETTE.

MARCUS R. BORUCK, Editor

SAN FRANCISCO

SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 24, 1857

THE FIREMAN'S JOURNAL

AND MILITARY GAZETTE,

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Editorial Correspondence.

St. NICHOLAS HOTEL, OROVILLE, January 22, 1857.

I left Marysville on the 20th for this place, in one of the Stage Company's Coaches. As usual I was provided with an outside seat supported on my right, by George Spencer the driver, and on my left, by Washington Montgomery Esq., the road agent.

During the winter season, the travel between Marysville and Oroville is not very large, but in one of the years above alluded to, a shipment of nine Orientals, rendered an extra stage necessary, and occasioned considerable delay in our departure, and it was nearly 7 o'clock A. M. before Spencer cracked his whip and started his team. Fortunately but two Orientals were placed on our stage, although we had a respectable load without them. The road, although the whole distance across the plains, was in a most horrible condition, and it was only by the skillful engineering of my left bower, and the extraordinary good management of my right, we were saved from miring at a dozen different points. To Nelson's Ranch, eight miles, it was bad; from thence to the Horn cut bridge, it became worse, and from there to Lynchburgh, one mile from there, it was indescribable. The passengers were compelled to walk several miles through mud of a most giving disposition, a foot deep in many places, accompanying the withdrawal of a boot with a sound something similar to "thock."

The whole distance from Marysville is 28 miles, and we were five and a half hours making it. I certainly think it was the most arduous work I ever saw animals perform; but the faithful bower labored and floundered through the pit-falls which beset them on all sides, paning and well nigh dead from exhaustion; it seemed cruel to these.

In the formation of Oroville, the name of Aladdin's Lamp, which we read in our younger days, (and which is readable now,) is outdone. One year since, the place upon which it stands, was known by the name of "Ophir," and three or four buildings comprised the town. The only mining then carried on, was at Thompson's flat, two miles distant, and "Ophir" was looked upon as a stopping place of the least importance. About nine months since, while an effort was made to remove the County seat from Bidwell's bar to "Ophir," water was introduced by means of the flumes of the Feather River and Ophir Canal Company, giving ample opportunity to work the mining ground to advantage. As if by magic, the town increased; an impulse unprecedented was given to business; the County seat of Butte was changed to its locality; the name of Oroville given to it, and every indication of permanence established. Houses of every description were erected with a suddenness which brought back to the recollection, the days of necromancy and wizard feats. Saloons, Hotels, Stores, (brick and frame) lined the streets on either side; gambling saloons of the most costly character in their decorations, from which the strains of beautiful music might be heard day and evening, held their place, and in fact the exciting scenes of 49, 50, and 51, were revived in Oroville, and have so continued up to the present time although now there is a slight cessation on account of the dullness which pervades all business.

We have strongly urged this matter before upon the attention of that body; our idea is that the Act should have been adopted at the last meeting of the Board, and a Committee appointed to proceed with it at once to Sacramento. Already one branch of the Legislature has passed a resolution to adjourn finally on the 4th of March, which, if adopted by the Senate, would leave but six weeks working time, in which to crowd all the Legislation for the State; if the action of the Board is delayed until after the introduction of Mr. Sullivan's bill, the presentation of the two Acts, and the discussion of necessity consequent upon their introduction, may be fatal to the measure, and lead to the same disastrous results, which last year plunged the Department into debt and disorder. We trust that the Board will see the justice of our remarks and take immediate action in the premises, as the shortness of the session will admit of no delay.

In Town.—Hiram Arents Esq., Chief Engineer of the Sacramento Fire Department, has been in town during the past week. Mr. Arents visited the city to bid adieu to his old friend and associate in the New York Fire Department, the Hon. David C. Broderick Senator elect from this state. In a conversation with Mr. A., in Sacramento, at the time of Mr. Broderick's election, he remarked that he could scarcely realize the fact, that the man who had been running down Broadway with a red skirt on outside of his pantaloons, with one suspender buttoned and the horn in his hand was the same gentleman who had just been elected to the Senate of the United States. This is a fact, Chief, the same man who has been the political idol of the writer of this, and himself for many years, has risen to the position he now occupies by his own indomitable will and energy. May the younger members of both of our Departments profit by his example.

GONE.—Messrs. Edward Stewart, and Terrance McCue, members of Vigilant No. 9, left for the States on the Steamer of the 20th. Mr. Stewart is well known in the Department, having occupied the position of Bell Ringer for several terms, and while in office, was noted for his correctness in giving alarms, and strict attention to his duties. Mr. S. visits home for the purpose of bringing out his sisters and making this his permanent home. Mr. McCue visits the States to recover his health, which has been gradually declining for several years past. We wish both gentlemen a safe voyage and a speedy return.

JOHN C. KEENAN.—This gentleman, foreman of Knickerbocker Engine No. 5 of Sacramento, left for the States on the last steamer accompanied by his family, previous to leaving Sacramento, Mr. K. was presented by the members of his company with a magnificent pair with a figure "8" in the centre encircled with diamonds. Mr. Keenan will be absent but a few months, and will still retain his foremanship, the company having refused to accept his resignation.

Fires and Alarms for the week.

Jan. 18, 2 A. M.—Still alarm. Bakery on Harrison street, between Bush and Sutter streets. Empire No. 1, in service. Damage trifling.

Jan. 18, 6 A. M.—Hall Bell alarm. 3d district. Old building at Corporation yard—partially consumed. Damage about \$150. Set on fire. Pennsylvania 12, first water.

PADE.—Empire 1 and Volunteer 7, attended the Metropolis Theatre on Thursday evening last—the former in uniform and the latter in citizen dress.

CONNECTION.—In our article in last week's issue on the re-organization of the Board of Delegates room, we inadvertently gave the name of the contractor for the desks, as Capt. M. W. Morrison; it should have been Morrison.

PENNSYLVANIA 12.—This excellent company did efficient service at the Corporation yard fire, on Sunday morning last. To their well directed efforts, is due the early extinguishment of the flames.

BURNING HILL.—This splendid Diorama is still on exhibition at Concert Hall, and is crowded nightly by fashionable and discriminating audiences. It is a magnificent work of art, and reflects great credit on the artist who originally designed it. It should be visited by everybody, as we understand it will remain but a short time in this city.

two polling precincts, about 560 votes were not polled, a sufficient time was not allowed to receive them. This may seem incredible to many, but it is nevertheless true. The generality of people at the Bay know but very little of the immensity of the interior towns, and it is only by a personal examination, as in my own case; that the fact can be realized; and while this ignorance of which I speak exists, it is a subject of perfect indifference to those who live in these interior commonwealths, for they are so perfectly able and competent to live on and prosper by means of their own resources, that all outside is looked upon with indifference. It is a matter of surprise to me that the business men of San Francisco particularly (not their clerks) do not visit to a greater extent, the mining localities of the State—that very portion upon which they mainly rely for "aid and comfort." By traveling themselves, and coming in contact with the hardy toilers of the soil, they might be able to gain a much better insight into the business and prosperity of the State, than by relying on the distorted facts presented by "snappers up of unconsidered trifles," or the pandering to their money by means of advertisements of newspapers, whose editorial lead where the popular current floats them. The merchants of San Francisco, and business men generally, might, by a journey through the State, learn, truthfully and without concealment, the opinions of the inhabitants on all matters, political and social, affecting the interests of the State.

I regret to say, that although this place contains several hundred buildings of a most inflammable character, it is without that great desideratum, for its protection—a well organized Fire Department. That it is essential, none can gainsay, when the deplorable destruction by fire during the past year has been taken into consideration. The application, of one good inch and a half stream would in case of a conflagration save the town. The prevailing idea, that it becomes necessary for a town similar to this to be destroyed by fire once or twice to improve it, is altogether a fallacious one. San Francisco and Sacramento have not yet recovered (with all their show of prosperity) from the effects of the disastrous fires which have overtaken them since 1850. Nevada, Auburn, and Placerville will not recuperate for years from the losses which they have sustained; and with all these facts before them, it becomes a sinful neglect on the part of the people longer to delay, making some provision of the description I have mentioned. One or two engines at the extent is all that would be required for several years, incurring an outlay of not over \$4,000, but which would save property worth an hundred times that amount.

Since the above was written, I have been informed that steps have already been taken to organize a Fire Department, and a call, of which the following is a copy, has been signed by the heaviest proprietors in the place:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of Oroville, respectfully invite our fellow citizens to meet with us at the St. Nicholas Hotel, on Monday evening next, January 26th, at 7½ o'clock, for the purpose of organizing a thorough Fire Department for the protection of their property, which, during the coming season, will be endangered without some steps being taken to attain the above end."

Oroville, January 22, 1857.

There is a very pretty little theatre erected here, at a cost of about \$6,000. Mr. J. S. Morris is the proprietor. It is capable of seating about four hundred persons. Mr. W. M. Fleming, Mrs. Estelle Potter, Mrs. Hunt, and a very fair company have been performing for a few nights. Mr. E. Y. have been looking upon as a highly educated and meritorious actor. Quiet and unassuming in his manners, relying on his own innate qualities for success, instead of the praise of the "whiskey" critics? of the day, he has not made stir in California which theatrical performers of less merit, but mere assurance, have succeeded in engendering, by the aid of champagne suppers and late breakfasts, to the "suckers" of the press. I am confident, however, that Mr. F. will raise himself in the estimation of the theatrical admirers of California, by his own force of character, natural talent, ability as a performer, and qualifications as a gentleman. He left Oroville on Tuesday for Marysville where himself, Mrs. Potter, and Mrs. Hunt will perform for a short time.

I have been stopping here at the St. Nicholas Hotel, which is conducted under the management of its proprietor, Frank Johnson, formerly connected with the California Steam Navigation Company. The arrangements of the House are systematically carried out. Every thing appertaining to it clean neat and comfortable, which to travellers far away from their own abode becomes doubly acceptable. Alex Haydon, formerly of the "O'reans" at Sacramento, is head clerk of the establishment. I can conscientiously recommend the St. Nicholas as an excellent hotel.

NEW HORSE CARRIAGE.—We learn from members of Confidence Co. No. 1, of this city, says the State Journal, that the sum of \$1,400 was sent by the steamer which left for the East Tuesday, to be applied for the purchase of an elegant new four wheeled horse carriage from the firm of John Agnew, of New York. The order was for an carriage of an superior make, to embody all the latest improvements of the day. It will carry four lights of red and blue colors. It is to be capable of carrying eight hundred feet of hose. It will be an elegant accomplishment to the new engine ordered by the same company about one month since, which is to cost \$3,500.

MAGGIE'S OPERA HOUSE.—The full tide of prosperity seems to have set in towards the Hall, to judge by the crowded houses assembled there nightly. We admire industry in every shape, and the exertions used by Mr. Maguire to produce the latest novelties, fully entitle him to the success his efforts are crowned with. We notice another new piece in rehearsal, entitled "Sambo's Dream," which will probably be produced during the opening week.

PANORAMA.—The magnificent painting of a Tour of Europe will be opened at the Union Theatre on Monday evening next. The scenes which are painted on 75,000 feet of canvas are said by judges to be very correct.

PACIFIC MUSEUM.—At this place of amusement, large crowds congregate every night, to witness the wonderful powers of Wires, the male charmer, and Adams, the bear tamer. Our up-country residents should go and see them whenever they visit our city. Admission is only twenty-five cents.

DRAMA.—Musicals, &c.—In another column, will be seen the advertisement of Messrs. Little & Co., Apothecaries, No. 170 Montgomery street. They are the oldest established firm of the kind in this city, and, being always good patrons of the firemen, should be well patronized by the public.

LADY HAIR DRESSING SALON.—Messrs. Fayard & Constant have lately fitted up a salon for ladies and gentlemen's hair dressing, No. 145 Montgomery street. See their advertisement in another column.

At this place I arrived at 2 p. m., boating the boat which started at the same time, three hours. Here I met A. W. Nightingill, Chief Engineer, and

Visit to the Brannan Engine. We copy the following from the *Alta de Wednesdays last.*

Yesterday at 2 o'clock P. M., the captain of the Russian man-of-war Dvina, now in our harbor, accompanied by two of his chief officers, visited and inspected the Brannan Engine, by invitation of Mr. T. J. L. Smiley, foreman of the Brannan Fire Association. A number of other invited guests were present, among whom were Gen. Wool, Col. Flores Mahoney, President of the Board of Delegates, Mr. Bond, of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. F. G. Whiting, Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, and several others. After examining the apparatus, the party partook of wine and refreshments, provided by the master of ceremonies, W. H. Paton Esq. The wine was of a new brand, obtained only at Paton's Exchange, called Rhoder, the cabinet of the Shrader, and of excellent flavor, under its inspiring influence speeches were made, and toasts given.

Mr. Smiley addressed a few well chosen remarks to the stranger guests, in which he spoke of the prosperity of Russia and Peter the Great, and concluded by giving a toast—"The Emperor Alexander."

To this Captain of the Dvina replied, saying it was impossible for him to express his feelings to their full extent owing to his ignorance of the English language. He expressed great admiration of the beauty of the engine, and an appreciation of the kindness shown by our citizens.

Chief Engineer Whitney then made a neat little speech, and gave as a toast—"General Wool, the Commander in Chief of the United States forces on the Pacific."

General Wool replied in an appropriate manner and was followed by the President of the Board of Delegates.

E. Heydenfeldt Esq., then gave a brief history of the Brannan Engine from the time of its being ordered, nearly four years ago, until her arrival here on the 3d of the present month. Mr. H. ended by giving a toast—"the health of Samuel Brannan."

Mr. Brannan came forward and made a few remarks, in which he took occasion to pay a high and well deserved compliment to our present Chief Engineer, Mr. Whitney. Years ago he had noticed and admired the ability of Mr. W. as a fireman, and was induced to order the Brannan Engine—a machine superior to anything of the kind perhaps in the world—in fact, to furnish him with a machine of which they could justly be proud. At his request Mr. Whitney had drawn the plan and capacity of the engine, and he (Mr. Brannan) had ordered and paid for it.

Several other speeches were made and toasts given, after which the guests, by invitation, visited several of the different engine houses of the city, and dispersed expressing much gratification at their visit.

Editorial Correspondence.

MARYSVILLE, JANUARY 20, 1857.

After a very pleasant trip from Mokelumne Hill, stopping a few days at Sacramento, I reached this hospitable city on Tuesday afternoon last. The travel from the Hill to Sacramento was intensely cold, and at the hour which the stage left, 2½ o'clock A. M., colder than any winter weather I ever experienced in the Atlantic States. The following will give you an idea of it: An enthusiastic friend at the Hill gave me a bottle of superior cocktails (so he told me), for the driver; but unfortunately without a cork, causing the liquor to spill by the jolting of the stage. When the driver asked for a "snifter," lo and behold; the cocktails had disappeared. There was the bottle, it was true, frozen to my cassimere gloves; but the liquor had metamorphosed itself into a long icicle, which gracefully laid along the blankets which wrapped our legs and kept them from freezing.

Immediately after leaving the town of Mokelumne Hill, the road commences a descent, gradually steep until within three quarters of a mile of the foot, when it becomes very steep, rendering a passage down it of a dark night extremely dangerous. The night I passed over it (the 9th), the moon shone brightly, lighting up the road like day. At the foot of the hill alluded to, which winds and turns like a serpent's tail, there is a very handsome and strong bridge which spans the Mokelumne at Big Bar. The bridge crossed, the road leads up a steep ascent of about three quarters of a mile; and to Jackson, nine miles from the Hill, the road lays through the mountains, passing within a few inches of deep ravines, hundred of feet.

Jackson I saw in the moonlight, and was surprised at the business appearance of its streets. There were a number of brick stores, a fine theatre, several large hotels, and stores of various kinds. I regretted my time was so limited as to deprive me of the pleasure of remaining, for a day, at least; but I shall take the opportunity, at another time. From Jackson to Lone Valley, twenty-five miles from the Hill, the road is undulating and easy of travel. All along the line a thick heavy frost covered the ground, and ice formed in every pond and puddle. At 7½ o'clock, we came in sight of Lone Valley, the most magnificent landscape that God ever blessed man with. Even at the inclement season of the year of which I write, its beauties are perceptible, and in the summer it must be a perfect Elysium.

At the famous Q Ranch we breakfasted, and then resumed our way to Sacramento, over 40 miles of an uninteresting road, as possibly could be imagined, as level as a barn floor, and with not much as such scenery. The tops, sides, and base of the hills were covered, pure and white; the snow must have been many feet in depth. We arrived at Sacramento at 2½ o'clock P. M., having been 11 hours making 65 miles.

Nothing of very particular interest occurred while I was in Sacramento, except the election of two United States Senators, which it would be treason of the most damning kind for me to dilate upon—except so far, I may be permitted to say, one was a fireman from his early youth, always foremost to battle with the foe, and never known to shrink when duty called him.

From Sacramento, to this place, I came in one of the fine coaches of the California Stage Company, of which James Haworth and C. J. Torbert (both firemen) are President and Secretary. The road for the entire distance to Nicolaus on the other side of the Feather River, is a level plain, and entirely unattractive. There were thousands of geese in the creeks and streams waiting to be shot. I noticed however that the interest taken in the agricultural resources of the State was decidedly on the increase. From Sacramento to Nicolaus, I counted eleven men at work ploughing; and on this side, from the point at which we crossed the river, I counted twenty-six men ploughing, and seven harrowing. Ranches innumerable, are situated along the road, testifying in stronger language, than words can convey, that the State will have something to depend upon, even should the mines give out, of which there is not much fear.

At this place I arrived at 2 p. m., boating the boat which started at the same time, three hours. Here I met A. W. Nightingill, Chief Engineer, and

Charles Ball, ex-Chief of the Fire Department; G. R. Nightingill, foreman of Eureka 1; Mr. C. Stokes foreman of Yuba 2; Mr. J. B. Humphrey, and P. J. Jocelyn of the Eureka's; Mr. Leland, and Mr. Lassiter, of Warren 4; and Mr. H. W. Theall of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, all of whom welcomed me in the kindest manner, and extended me that liberal courtesy and consideration, for which the people of Marysville are so justly celebrated.

It is about one year since I visited this city, and the improvements and additions that have been made to it, in that time, are truly astonishing. Marysville is now emphatically a brick city, and when the Spring opens, alterations and additions of a more extensive character will be made. The people are whole soul'd, liberal, sociable, and ambitious; depending on their own resources in a great measure, and are successful. It is impossible for a man to feel like a stranger here, for the people will not allow it; they make him feel at home, whether he will or not.

The Fire Department is in a flourishing condition. Fortunately it has been blessed with most excellent Chief Engineers, and the result of it is prosperity and success. In a future letter, I will give you some interesting information respecting the Fire Department, which will prove very readable and acceptable to every fireman. I leave for Oroville this morning, and on my return, will write you again from this place.

B. W. H. WILDER.—This gentleman, who has been

so long and favorably known in the Drama of this City, returned last evening, by the bark Yankee, from Sandwich Islands, where we are happy to announce, he with his company met with decided success.

A Millionaire Beggar.
The Paris correspondent of the *Express* (Jacques Bonhonne) is responsible for the following story:

It is not long since I related to you a rather curious story of a young female rag-picker, who turned out to be the daughter of a wealthy merchant. Here is the following anecdote; it is still more marvelous, but not less true. Upon one of the most frequented bridges of Paris was every day to be seen a man of sixty years of age, clothed in rags, but in seeming good health. This old man asked the charity of passers-by in a plaintive voice, and as he appeared worthy, many a sou was thrown into his cup. One evening a lady passed near him, and, taking a piece of money from her purse, put it into the old man's hand, and walked on, conscious of having done a kind act. Upon the bridge, she inquired the old man's address, and learned that he lived in the *Rue de Lille*. The next morning she went to the house indicated, and found it to be an elegant hotel.

"No doubt he lives in one of the garrets, where he is permitted to lodge for free, I'll ask. Old Marcel" she demanded of the porter.

"First story in front, Madame."

Arrived at the rooms allotted to her, the lady felt certain that there must be some mistake. She did not like to trouble the servants of a prince to ask after a beggar, but finally suppressing her emotion, and determined to see the end of the adventure, she rang the bell. A man in livery presented himself.

"Could you show me the room of old Father Marcel?" asked the lady.

"It is here," answered the servant; "please sit down and I will go and call Monsieur."

"There is certainly a blunder somewhere," thought the lady; "but as the same names are frequently borne by rich and poor alike, I shall only need to beg pardon."

Scarce had she seated herself upon the sofa when a second domestic opened the door of a handsome saloon, and a tall old man, wrapped in a rich black gown, advanced and said:

"Oh! what can I be to you, Madame?"

"Why, sir," stammered the lady, "I trust you will excuse the apparent impertinence, but the name—the address—ever a striking resemblance may plead for the error I have made. These are the circumstances: Yesterday, in passing over the Pont Royal, I hastily gave a Napoleon instead of a copper to a poor man who—but these details are useless; permit me to retire."

"Remember, Madame, if you please," he answered, smiling, "you are a good woman. You are speaking of old Marcel, and I recognize you as the lady who has frequently bestowed alms upon me. If by error you gave me a twenty franc piece, we will try and recover the coin. Pierre, bring me yesterday's receipts!"

The lackey disappeared, and the lady was more astonished than ever. In a moment Pierre returned, bearing a large plate, which the old man ordered him to empty upon the table. Marcel then turned over the copper, and presently found the gold coin.

"You are right, Madame," said she, courteously handing it to her. "Here is the coin."

The lady could scarcely believe her eyes. She received the money with a blush, and bowed to Marcel, who respectfully conducted her to the door. She has now learned to bestow her charitable gifts with more circumspection, and scarcely expects a repetition of her extraordinary adventure. Such an occurrence, in any other part of the world, would certainly seem incredible, but in a wonderful city like Paris it is only a common-place affair.

A joint Stock Company has been formed in Havana for the purpose of extracting an oil from a species of Soap stone.

The registration fee on letters passing through the London post-office, is said to be about £25,000 per annum.

The Cincinnati Gazette says that the receipts of coal at that place by the late rise amount to about 500,000 bushels.

A lock of the hair of George Washington, on exhibition in Paterson, N. J.

COTTON SEAMLESS HOSE FOR HYDRAULIC MINING.

We have on hand, and shall continue to receive, Cotton Seamless Hose, of all sizes which we can sell at ONE-FOURTH OF THE PRICE OF Leather or Gutta Percha Hose.

WEAR & STORE, 89 Front street, May 10.

BALDWIN'S Fresh Apples—In fine, for pie large and small tins, equal to the French Apple, for Preserves, &c.—just landed from Boston. For sale by J. W. CROSBY, Corner Battery and California streets, 1/26.

WILLIAM G. BADGER. Importer and Commission Merchant, and Wholesale Dealer in

READY-MADE CLOTHING General Harrison Block, 99 Battery St.

MRS. PLUMMER, NO. 217 WASHINGTON STREET, ABOVE THE PLAZA,

Be sure to inform Ladies and Gentlemen residing in San Francisco, that we are ready to make to order, at the shortest possible notice, Gentlemen's under clothing of all kinds—shirts, Drawers, etc.

For the day's dress, Suite cleaned and repaired, Regalia for Orders, and Suits for the Military made to order or dressed. Gentlemen's Shirts, Drawers, and under clothing made to order. Recollect the place, 21 Washington st.

PHOENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

CASH CAPITAL \$200,000. SURPLUS FUND \$50,000 TOTAL \$250,000.

All paid in cash and securely invested.

Office, No. 845 Fulton street, Brooklyn; Branch Office, 111 Broadway, New York.

THE UNDERSIGNED having been appointed Agent for California, is prepared to issue policies here.

He is accustomed to settle losses upon terms of the most liberal and expeditious. Office, No. 121 Montgomery street, San Francisco, June 18th, 1856.

J. W. CROSBY, 1/26.

\$100 REWARD. R. H. VANCE,

PATENT AMBROTYPE of Sacramento and Montgomery streets.

We those who have something New and BEAUTIFUL—We have purchased the Patent Right of the AMBROTYPE for this State, and are the only ones to take them in, from the smallest miniture to life size.

They resemble all Pictures taken on Glass in that they are taken on Glass.

They are done in a very fine and beautiful invention until they have seen the GENUINE AMBROTYPE. They are said to be the most delicate and perfect pictures ever taken.

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